



25 October 1952

Mrs. E. B. Schooler



STAT

Dear Mrs. Schooler:

General Smith has asked me to acknowledge your letter of 17 October and to thank you for your interest in the Central Intelligence Agency. The article which you enclosed had already come to our attention.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Robert L. Long



Assistant to the Director

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Dear Gen. Smith -

I am enclosing this article for your use - if it is useful to you. Perhaps the criticism is unfounded - I don't know. But I do feel we are fighting such a tough war against Communism that all possibilities of furthering our cause of showing American democracy in its true goodness must be developed.

P.S. I also think Central and South American friendship are of tantamount importance to us.

Sincerely
Mrs. E. B. Schooler

STAT

CIA Fails To Halt Anti-U.S. Smears

By VICTOR RIESEL

Half a billion dollars a year is spent by the mysterious Central Intelligence Agency. But apparently there is not 25 cents to spare for one of its cloak and dagger couriers to taxi down a Washington street to a man who knows more than anyone in the nation about the anti-U.S. campaign of characters like Josephine (I Love The Perons, Dead and Alive) Baker.

There aren't many more continents we can afford to lose. Yet we're losing Central and South America, too, because of a weird CIA allergy to contacting informed anti-Communists who are under constant attack by the Soviet propaganda apparatus.

A bitter wave of anti-United States sentiment is hurting our defense, endangering the big canal and driving American businessmen bankrupt below the Rio Grande. Still our Latin-American friends are not contacted by our government agencies, not informed, not alerted.

U.S. Pilloried

Thus it is that singer Josephine Baker, of the famous Stork Club fury, can float down all of Latin America from Mexico City to Rio, speaking against us at a series of anti-U.S. rallies, arousing the colored millions of Latin America, while the \$500 million Central Intelligence Agency does little to counteract or neutralize her propaganda. Then she winds up in Argentina, joining forces with the Fascist government of the Peronistas, which has smashed free labor as well as the free press in the streets back of Copacabana beach—and the United States is pilloried and friendless.

Yet, just a few streets from the Central Intelligence Agency headquarters sits Serafino Romauldi, Latin-American expert for the American Federation of Labor. But not once has he ever had a note, a telephone query or a visit from Central Intelligence.

Typical of the failure of our foreign counter intelligence is an incident which rippled quietly through one of the private dining rooms at the Hotel Mayflower in Washington the other day.

Six Nicaraguan labor people, who had been invited to the United States as a good will gesture, were being dined by the state department. The Nicaraguan ambassador, one of this country's good friends, was there naturally. Suddenly one of the Nicaraguan workers took a leaflet from his pocket and showed it to Romauldi. It was hair-raising anti-U.S. propaganda officially distributed by the Argentine embassy, mind you, throughout Nicaragua.

Defamatory Leaflet

Following the line of attack used by the sulking singer, Josephine Baker, the leaflet was titled "This is American Democracy." On the cover was a sketch of the Statue of Liberty—with a ghastly caricature of President Truman's face drawn in. The outstretched hand, which symbolically holds the torch of liberty, had instead in this cartoon a rope from which hung a Negro.

The leaflet was passed on to the Nicaraguan ambassador by the outraged visitor from his homeland. The ambassador was horrified.

The state department and Central Intelligence must have known of this damaging anti-U.S. propaganda, or they were criminally negligent. Yet no contact was made with the Nicaraguan ambassador. But he is a friend of ours—and we have so few. With just one cable he could have stopped circulation of this brutal attack on us in a land which may some day have to supply a second path across Central America if the Panama Canal is sabotaged or bombed. But he knew nothing of it—and back in his home country they heard nothing of any resentment in Washington.



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GEN. WALTER BEDELL SMITH
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON,
D.C.

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UNCLASSIFIED RESTRICTED CONFIDENTIAL SECRET
(SENDER WILL CIRCLE CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM)

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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FROM		INITIALS	DATE
1	Ass't to the Director	REL	10/21/52
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REMARKS: Another letter on the Oct. 14 Riesel column.

Transmitted letter to her that DCI appreciates her interest in CIA and thanks her for ~~some~~ her suggestions. Do you want me to handle?